

Season's Greetings

ओ३म् सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः। सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु। मा कश्चित् दुःखं भाग्भवेत्॥

ओ३म् शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om Sarve bhavantu sukhinah | Sarve santu niraamayaah |

Sarve bhadraani pashyantu | Maa kashchit dukha bhaagbhavet ||

Om Shaantih, Shaantih, Shaantih ||

O, Eeshvar (God)!

Meaning:

May All be prosperous and happy; Peace be unto all.

May All be free from illness; Good health be unto all.

May All that we see be auspicious.

May All be free from pains & sorrows.

May All strive for universal welfare; Goodness be in our thoughts, speech & actions

Peace be unto All

All be at peace, free from physical, spiritual & cosmic distress.

"Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols." Thomas Mann

2018 (Common Era) is drawing to a close. It is time where, most people try to make new beginnings. The ultimate goals of the various resolutions are to live a healthier and satisfying life. Resolutions are easier taken than fulfilled. All strive; some achieve their goals, some succeed partly, some fail but keep trying and some end up defeated, frustrated, distressed, etc.

We tend to measure our happiness level with people whom we believe to be happy due to the visible part ...fortunes, posts, power, and the lot they achieved. The invisible part is ...little or no inner peace which leaves a sense of some unknown vital thing missed or yet to be achieved. That can only be identified with insight.

Likewise the common of mortals may feel a void while taking stock of the achievements during 2018 (CE). We have been trained to look at the whole picture, in utter ignorance of the various parts that constitute the big puzzle ...of life. A closer scrutiny will reveal that the big goals we hoped to achieve were the sum of smaller goals. Then we realise that we achieved many of these smaller goals and also realise their impact in our lives, on our relatives and friends, and on society.

Real happiness flows from inside out whereas that which flows in from the outside is only short-lived. The moves to effectively progress include:

- ✦ Having a holistic vision of life, i.e. set goals for our physical, spiritual and social development; and

- ✧ Having lots of passion for firm, steady and best physical and mental efforts to implement the strategies to realise the smaller goals which sum up to major changes in the wider horizon of life.

These are evergreen knowledge given to mankind at Creation. We feel the distress in the passage of time because we have turned away from that knowledge just “to be in” with current trends. Mindfulness is the key to be on track to carve a new future; mindfulness is the state of being always conscious or aware – like any running contest, be it a sprint or a marathon, it always starts with a first step and is completed by a series of constant subsequent steps to reach the finish. Self-motivation never lasts ...like the freshness of a shower, the appeasing of thirst and hunger; we need to be resourceful and renew efforts on a regular basis.

Massive fireworks, lights, shopping frenzies from Kiribati, Samoa, Auckland (New Zealand), Sydney (Australia), to New York (USA), American Samoa and Baker Island marks “the New Year”. It is time to start writing on this new page a new vision which picks up from where we ended the last page.

Once gone, time never comes back. Past experiences serve as inspiration: to avoid the errors and omissions and to improve what we did well.

It is time to thank Eeshvar, God for giving us a new opportunity

- * to be positive,
- * to be caring and compassionate,
- * to spare some time to attend to the needy,
- * to respect all around us,
- * to respect nature (the Creation),
- * to be level-headed in losses and gains, and
- * to pray that each new day brings more peace and prosperity to all.

Wishes and prayers alone shall not yield wonders! Meticulous & regular efforts shall bring us closer to the goals and enable us to contribute in making the world a better place for all living beings ...leading to a more satisfying life ...a true sense of fulfilment and bliss.



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Various cultures, religions, communities celebrate New Year on specific dates as per their own traditions and customs. Yet, the enthusiasm is same. Generally, New Year is believed to augur a new beginning in life; a chance to promise to oneself to lead a better life in the year ahead.

New Year is a big deal for the self only if we quietly check our resolves and attainments of the past year, and think about the incoming one. 100% mental and physical efforts are needed to cleanse oneself with a view to betterment, otherwise most of the resolutions will be broken within hours, and plans not come to fruition.

Time rolls on. Never be lost in consumerism (consuming for the sake of consumption: boisterous bursting of crackers, etc.).

Dates of New Year by various cultures & religions across the world

December 31, 2018	<i>Slavic communities across Eastern Europe & Balkan countries</i>
January 1, 2019	<i>Gregorian calendar (Common Era)</i>
January 21	<i>Mahayana, Buddhist New Year</i>
January 14	<i>New Year by the Eastern Orthodox Churches Communities (Russia, Serbia, etc.)</i>
February 5	<i>Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) Seollal (Korean New Year)</i>
February 05 - 07	<i>Losar (Tibet)</i>
March 7	<i>Nyepi (Balinese New Year)</i>
March 21	<i>Nowruz or Persian New Year (Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan) & Zoroastrian and Baha'i communities.</i>
April 6	<i>Nav Samvarsar, Vedic (Hindu) New Year & Ugaadi (Telugu & Kannada New Year)</i>
April 14	<i>Puthandu (Tamil) & Baisakhi (Punjabi & Nepali) New Year</i>
August 31	<i>Hijri or Islamic New Year</i>
September 1	<i>Christian Liturgical New Year</i>
September 29 to October 01	<i>Rosh Hashanah, Jews</i>
October 28	<i>Marwari & Gujarati New Year</i>
October 30	<i>Western Australia Aboriginal Murador New Year</i>
November 1	<i>Samhain (Celtic New Year - Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany)</i>
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Source: Internet

The Gregorian calendar is the most widely used calendar in the world today. It is the calendar used in the international standard for Representation of dates and times: ISO 8601:2004. It is the most widely used civil calendar in the world.

Introduced in October 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, it is based on solar years, divided into 12 months (January 01 to December 31) with 365 in the common years and 366 days every 4th year (Leap year).

The outgoing year is known as 2018 CE (Common Era) and incoming year as 2019 CE, as popularized in the late 20th century in academic and scientific publications, and more generally by authors and publishers.